

SENSORY TABLE IDEAS

- Add bubble wrap, old cars and a little water to your sensory table. The children drive their cars over the bubble wrap to make popping noise.
- Make the water table a garden. Fill with topsoil and add flowers or seeds. Add gardening tools such as trowels, cups, and pails. Plastic/silk flowers can also be used for a “ready-made” garden.
- Add tearless baby shampoo...bubbles are made with wire whisks or a hand cranked mixer.
- Add shaving cream, instant mashed potatoes, cornmeal, grits, dry beans of any variety, rice, unusual shaped/colored noodles, oatmeal, flour, dried corn, buttons. Have children sort the dry items into containers.
- During very hot weather put ice cubes in the water table. Let the children experience cold and melting. Make ice cubes and freeze fun things inside such as small dinosaurs, jelly worms, counting pieces, plastic bugs/insects. Ice balls can be made from freezing water balloons overnight. Tear off and discard balloons before adding ice balls to table.
- Add a turkey baster, empty squirt bottles, and funnels. Discuss terms like: empty, full, more and less.
- Make “ooey goey stuff” for the water table. Recipe: Liquid starch and white glue (usually equal parts, mix and it becomes “blubbery”).
- Add water with wiggly fishing worms. Children will giggle while grasping the slimy worms!
- Have children pan for “gold”. Place a layer of sand at the bottom of the sensory table and enough water to cover the sand by three inches. Add tin pie plates and pyrite or small pebbles to the sand. Have the children pan for the “gold”.
- Add potting soil and live earthworms.
- Use the table for washing baby dolls and dishes.
- Add shaving cream to the table.
- Use cornstarch and water to make “goop”.
- Add sea animals in blue water.
- Add fake gems in the sand and dig for treasure.
- Add bird seed with different sizes of sifters and sieves.
- Add tree limb to represent a log and plastic frogs.
- Spray paint dried lima beans gold and use in sand for searching for gold.
- Create a pond using plastic fish, frogs, lizards and lily pads cut from craft foam.
- Make an assortment of funnels by cutting plastic bottles in half. Cover the cut edge with masking tape.
- When studying measuring, plastic bottles of varying sizes. Draw several lines on each bottle with different colors of permanent marker. Have the children fill the bottles to the line and then compare which has more.

Please refer to Georgia’s Pre-K Science Content Standards for specific performance indicators.

PROPS FOR SENSORY TABLE

Sand (or other dry materials)

Muffin tins
 Cookie cutters
 Seashells
 Feathers
 Sifters
 Tweezers
 Shovels
 Molds
 Sprayers or misters
 Small cars and trucks
 Sticks and seeds
 Rolling pins
 Rakes
 Plastic animals

Sand and Water

Marbles
 Pebbles
 Seashells
 String
 Funnels
 Pots and pans
 Buckets and bowls
 Measuring cups
 Measuring spoons
 Scoops and strainers
 Ladles and sieves
 Empty film containers
 Corks and nesting cups
 Small containers
 Dinosaur props
 Plastic worms
 PVC pipes w/connectors

Water (or other liquid materials)

Paintbrushes
 Spray bottles
 Food coloring
 Siphons
 Waterwheels
 Boats
 Squeeze bottles
 Egg beaters
 Tongs
 Whisks
 Eye droppers
 Plastic straws
 Vegetable dyes
 Sponges
 Marine animals
 Small fish nets
 Fish cut from foam pieces
 Scented extracts